

Office of Attorney General Terry Goddard



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Terry Goddard Invites Public to Discuss Meth Crisis

(Phoenix, Ariz. – Oct. 21, 2005) Attorney General Terry Goddard will host a community forum to discuss how to fight the continued proliferation of methamphetamine. The forum will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 25 at the American Legion Hall, 206 Birch Street in Flagstaff. The meeting starts at 7 p.m.

Goddard will be joined by local elected officials to present information on proposed legislation to fight meth production. They will also hear public comments on the meth problems facing the Flagstaff community.

Earlier this year Goddard championed legislation that would have made it more difficult for meth cookers to obtain pseudoephedrine products, the key ingredient needed to produce meth. This legislation was supported by more than 50 law enforcement agencies throughout Arizona.

"We are experiencing a public health crisis with meth," Goddard said. "Meth cookers are poisoning our children, putting our public safety officers in unacceptable dangers and imposing high costs on taxpayers, businesses, healthcare systems and the environment to deal with the effects of meth use and production."

Statistics show meth is closely connected to a wide range of other crimes, including domestic abuse, child endangerment and identity theft.

In addition to hosting the meth community forum, Goddard will visit the Cancer Center of Northern Arizona to present a check for \$15,000. He will be at the Center at 2 p.m. for a short presentation ceremony.

The funds are from a multi-state settlement with Bristol-Myers Squibb for unlawfully maintaining a monopoly on Taxol®, an anticancer prescription drug, which resulted in Arizona consumers paying higher costs for this lifesaving medication.

In June 2004, the settlement returned more than \$625,000 to Arizona. This total included returning \$103,272 to 166 Arizona consumers who submitted claims for purchases of Taxol®, \$138,677 to the Department of Health Services for breast cancer

screenings, and more than \$294,000 to the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS).

The funds are considered residual funds, and the court-approved settlement directed Attorneys General to distribute these funds to non-profit organizations that benefit cancer patients or their families.

Event information for Meth Community Forum:

What: **Meth Community Forum**

Where: American Legion Hall
 206 Birch Street (Across from Wheeler Park)
 Flagstaff

When: Tuesday – Oct. 25
 7 p.m.

Event information for Check Presentation to Cancer Center of Northern Arizona

What: **Check Presentation**

Where: Cancer Center of Northern Arizona
 Flagstaff Medical Center
 1200 N. Beaver Street
 Flagstaff

When: Tuesday- Oct. 25
 2 p.m.

For more information about these events, please contact Andrea Esquer at 602.542.8019.

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